

To the decorated period, also, are due most of those fine monumental effigies of knights and ladies, that are not unfrequently found even in very obscure parish churches. Such are to be seen at Burghfield, beneath an early decorated niche; at Dorchester, at Cholsay, Childrey, Wantage, and Bathampton. In the church of Aldworth, there are no less than ten figures, of which seven lie beneath canopied niches. To this same period, also, is to be referred a description of decorated window with a flat top, not generally known, but extremely common in the vale of Berks, and near Oxford. It resembles exactly in its general figure and dimensions the usual late perpendicular window, but its dripstone and mouldings are decidedly decorated, and the heads of the light generally, if not always, trefoiled. Among very many examples we may mention those in the churches of Streathley, in the north aisle; South-Stoke, south aisle; West-Hendred; East Lockinge; Dorchester, north aisle; and Drayton and Cowley, near Oxford.

Among the numerous examples of the perpendicular style may be mentioned the church of West Drayton; the towers of Henley and Compton; the church of Ewelme; the towers of Dorchester, Warborough, Henley, and St. Mary's, Wallingford, all very late in the style; the church of Yattendon; the early tower of East Hendred; the south aisle of Didcot; the towers of South-Stoke, Long and Little-Wittenham, North-Moreton, East-Hale, East-Hagbourne, Aston Tirrold, and Blewberry; the tower and south porch of Childrey; the chancel, and south porch of Lyneham; the towers of Sutton-Benger, Shrivenham, South-Marston, Chippenham, Draycot-Cerne, Bitton, and Keynsham, are in this style, as are the excellent chapels attached to the churches of Faringdon and Chippenham. In the valley of the Avon the perpendicular style preponderates: the tower of Box is late perpendicular, as is the whole of Bath Abbey Church; the towers of Newton, St. Lo, Bitton, and Keynsham, are late in the style; that of Brighthelm is a little earlier, and a fine example; Bath-Easton tower also is a particularly handsome one. In the city of Bristol the perpendicular remains are excellent; among them may be mentioned much of Redcliffe, partaking also of the decorated character; the lofty tower and church of St. Stephen; St. Augustine's, St. John's, St. Peter's, St. Thomas's, and the Temple; also the vestry, and a late perpendicular altar-piece at the Mayor's Chapel.

The architectural antiquities are almost wholly ecclesiastical. There is, however, a singular late perpendicular house at Ockwells, in Bray parish; and at Sutton Courtney is a house, a part of which is of early English date. The Abbey of Bisham, now a dwelling house, presents some good early English masonry, including a fine door: At Great Coxwell, an abbey barn in the decorated style remains quite perfect, and is certainly the most magnificent barn in the kingdom. There is also a good decorated barn at Bathampton."

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

THE amount of the fund collected for the Birmingham baths is at present about 6,000*l.*; but it appears that 18,000*l.* might have been now in hand, had working committee-men been appointed; eligible sites have been obtained. — Baths and wash-houses are also about to be supplied to the poorer inhabitants of Worcester. — The tender of Messrs. Forman and Frow (the contractors for the alterations in the river at Wisbech), being the lowest for the erection of the Wisbech Museum, has been accepted. — The foundation-stone of the new church in the Victoria-road, Seacombe, was laid on Saturday week. It is to be dedicated to St. Paul, and capable of accommodating 800 persons. Mr. Hay, of St. George's-crescent, is the architect; and the cost is estimated at 2,000*l.* — The new pier at Beaumaris was opened for the accommodation of the public on Tuesday week. There is now convenient landing at all times of tide. — Other 500*l.* are to be expended on the alteration and improvement of the Bishop of Exeter's episcopal residence; altogether 3,500*l.* have been allowed by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for this purpose. — St. George's Church, Kingswood, Gloucestershire, having been rebuilt at an expense exceeding 2,000*l.*, was to be opened on

the 9th current. — The pier-heads at Bridport are about to be run out several feet further into the sea. — The foundation-stone of the new steam establishment at Keyham, Devonport, will be laid in August by the present First Lord of the Admiralty, if then in office. The contractors are Messrs. Baker and Son. — The church at Nafferton is undergoing considerable repair and decoration, and an organ is being built for it. — The sum of 3,800*l.* has been collected for the erection of the new chapel of ease at Cirencester, on the plan of Mr. Scott, the architect of the church near the Swindon station. It is to consist of a north aisle, with a porch, a nave, and chancel, to which a tower and spire may be added as the funds permit. A further sum of 1,600*l.*, however, is required. — The foundation-stone of the addition to Tintern Parva Church was laid on Monday week before last. A portion of the old walls is to be also rebuilt, and the church repewed when thus renovated and enlarged. — The alterations of Durham Cathedral, with the view of restoring the interior to something like its original state, have been for some time in progress. The chapter-room is being restored, the columnar work and tracery being covered over with stouthing and plaster; but the room has been curtailed in its dimensions to add to the size of the deanery gardens. — The second reading of the Places of Worship (Scotland) Bill, to compel the landed proprietors to yield sites for buildings in connection with the Free Church, was moved by Mr. Fox Maule in the Commons on the 11th instant, but opposed by the Government; Sir James Graham moving that it should be read that day six months. The debate was adjourned to the 17th instant. — A new church is in the course of erection at Sutton Waldron, near Shaftesbury, Dorsetshire, at the sole expense of the incumbent, the Rev. A. Huxtable. It is in the decorated style, consisting of nave, chancel, south aisle, western tower and spire, and south porch. Mr. G. Alexander, of London, is the architect.

ACTION AGAINST A DISTRICT SURVEYOR.

AN action for slander of title, brought by Mr. Pater against Mr. Baker, was tried on Saturday last in the Court of Common Pleas. We obtain the following particulars from the *Morning Post*:

The plaintiff in this case is an attorney, the defendant a district-surveyor. An auction took place, on the 2nd of last March, at which certain houses of the plaintiff's, in Agar-town, were put up for sale. The defendant on this occasion entered the auction-room, and, it was alleged, uttered as nearly as might be the following words: — "My object in attending this sale is to warn purchasers, if any there should be, that I cannot allow those houses to be finished until the roads are made good. I have no power directly to compel you to make the roads, but I can stop the completion of the houses until the roads are made good." On the part of the plaintiff it was now stated, that he had lost the opportunity of selling his property in consequence of the observations made by defendant. Subsequently to this, referees were appointed by the parties, for the purpose of examining the roads in question, and of reporting whether they had or had not been so constructed, with respect to width and so forth, as to fall within the provisions of the Metropolitan Building Act of the 7th and 8th Victoria. On the 16th of March the referees had a meeting, and the defendant Baker was declared to have made this statement: "The reason why I pursued Pater (the plaintiff) was, that I could not attack Agar, the ground landlord, and Pater being the steward and collector, I thought he was the best person to attack." These referees made their award on the 28th of March, and decided that the roadways were rough and unfinished, but were of sufficient width to comply with the requirements of the Act of Parliament. The plaintiff thereupon commenced his action against the defendant, alleging that he had maliciously interfered to prevent the sale of his (the plaintiff's) property; and he sought to recover 18*l.* 12*s.* for the expenses of advertisements and other matters connected with the abortive sale. These being the facts, the question was, had the defendant acted maliciously, or simply and bona fide in the conscientious discharge of his duty

as district surveyor. On the one side it was argued that malice must be inferred—first, from the fact, that there was no ground for the surveyor's interference at all; and, secondly, from the fact that the sale had been advertised for several weeks previous to the day the auction was to have taken place. The defendant, therefore, in coming forward at the critical time and in the manner which he did, could have had no other object in view than to injure the plaintiff Pater. On the other hand, for Mr. Baker, the surveyor, it was contended he could not be supposed to have acted maliciously, as he had no ill feeling towards Pater; and secondly, because he had, in the discharge of his duty, on the 27th of February, given notice that he required the owners of these houses in Agar-town, to have the roads in question properly repaired. This showed that before the day of sale, the surveyor had intimated his opinion that the roads were not in the state required by the Act of Parliament, as well as might be, even though they were of the proper width. It was urged, too, that in point of fact the sale was not lost, as the property might have been sold as soon as the objection raised had been removed by the award of the referees.

Mr. Justice Erie left the case on the facts stated to the Jury, who found for the plaintiff Pater, with 18*l.* 12*s.*

THE PROGRESS OF ORNAMENTAL DESIGN.

At a meeting of the Archaeological Institute, on the 5th instant, Mr. Birch introduced the subject appointed for discussion,—"Personal ornaments of all periods;" and in the course of his address offered a few remarks on the causes which have influenced the general character of ornamental design, as distinct from art on the one hand and mere manufactures on the other. He observed that the earliest ornaments of every race were doubtless some natural production,—flowers, leaves, berries, amber, ivory, shells, minerals. Afterwards, as skill in metallurgy and other arts increased, these substances were imitated in some more convenient material. The types of the original objects, thus becoming perfectly familiar to the race, would exert a considerable influence on the character of their ornamental design for many generations. Again, the primary substances thus employed were replaced, in the progress of wealth, commercial intercourse, and mechanical skill, by more esteemed or abundant materials. From the influence of habit, the class of ornament proper in one material was retained improperly in another, —though sometimes with very felicitous effect. Thus, the ornaments of the earliest Greek and other fictile vases seem imitations of the basket-work of an earlier generation; the glass necklace of the Celts was copied in the metallic torques. This process of irregular adaptation is probably always going on in the art of a race,—like irregular formations and self-adjustments of their language.

In that subsequent period of the history of a race when architecture, sculpture, and painting, are distinctly and fully developed, these arts have exercised a great influence over the contemporary ornamental design. As the principles of design became more clearly understood, the love of imitation common to man led to the introduction of the forms of nature in ornamental design. This was not, as in the first efforts of the savage, the mere reproduction, in a new material, of animal and vegetable substances, but the artistic representation and adaptation of animal and vegetable life. The process seems to have been as follows:—In the fashioning of any object intended for use, the dictates of a common necessity have given birth to much the same type in the productions of races the farthest apart in date and situation; but, after the fulfilment of the primary want, there arises the desire to adapt, in the structure of the object, analogous forms from vegetable or animal life, and to incorporate the work of nature and of man into one design. The Greek race appears to have possessed extraordinary natural capacity for carrying out this love of imitation. An intuitive tact led them to discern in nature, and borrow in art, the forms best suited for the required design. A never-failing sense of beauty shaped these selections into harmonious composition, and their practical genius kept